



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
RISK REDUCTION ENGINEERING LABORATORY
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45268

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DATE: September 18, 1991

SUBJECT: Review of the "Revised Sampling and Analysis Plan
Macroinvertebrate Study and Fish Sampling", for the
McIntosh Plant Site

FROM: Mark C. Meckes *dh c gk*
START Team Leader
Regional Support Section, TSB, STDD, RREL

TO: Cheryl Smith
Remedial Project Manager
Region IV

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The subject document only addresses sampling the basin area. The analytical work associated with the samples will be addressed in a separate document to be completed on or about September 23, 1991.

The sampling strategy for fish appears to be reasonable. However, the recovery of 20 specimens of largemouth bass, is required, whereas the recovery of catfish is related to sampling effort, i.e. three initial sampling days. Since catfish sampling will be tied to daily effort, the actual time spent in collection of specimens must be specified. For example, time spent in actual recovery of specimens could be only one or two hours out of any given day. The remainder of the time spent could be in travel, sample container preparation, and/or record keeping. If we are to be convinced that appropriate sampling effort is being made the term "day" needs to be better defined.

The sampling strategy for the macroinvertebrates also appears to be reasonable. However, a single sampling event for these populations represents a "snapshot" approach. Seasonal variations can be significant with these populations. Therefore, a sampling program which takes into account seasonal changes is recommended. Also, the sample locations identified in figure 3 were selected to characterize the macroinvertebrate population throughout the basin. However, an earlier study indicated contamination in the basin area adjacent to the "old" plant discharge channel. Therefore, additional sampling and characterization of the macroinvertebrate population along the "old" discharge channel and in those areas of the basin which have been identified as being contaminated, is recommended.

If you have questions about these comments, please call me at FTS 684-7348.

If you have any questions you may contact Kenneth Lucas, the at
(404)347-2643.

Sincerely,

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Cheryl W. Smith
Remedial Project Manager
South Superfund Remedial Branch

cc: Toni Odon, Olin
Joe Downey, ADE
Dan Cooper, ADEM